

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 246886

E.O. 11652, N/A

TAGS: EC, PFOR

SUBJECT: OAS MEETING -- U.S. PRESS TREATMENT

FOR BRIAN BELL, PRESS SPOKESMAN FOR CONFERENCE

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF NOVEMBER 8 U.S. PRESS ACCOUNTS
OF QUITO MEETING:

2. NYTIMES EDITORIAL, IN CONTEXT OF GENERALLY LAUDING
LINOWITZ REPORT AND ITS RELATION TO QUITO MEETING, COMMENT-
ED: QUOTE - IT IS TIME TO LIQUIDATE AN INEFFECTIVE POLICY
AND TRY TO EASE CUBA'S RETURN TO A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE
PATTERN OF INTER-AMERICAN AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.
UNQUOTE. FOLLOW-UP EDITORIAL EXPRESSES REGRET AT SECRE-
TARY'S ABSENCE FROM QUOTE MOST MOMENTOUS MEETING OF OAS
SINCE IT NEARLY FOUNDERED IN THE AFTERMATH OF U.S. MILI-
TARY INTERVENTION IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, 1965. UNQUOTE
NOTING SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PROGRESS IN DEFINING A NEW
APPROACH TO ADDRESS HEMISPHERE PROBLEMS, EDITORIAL CON-
CLUDED THAT IT WAS QUOTE PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE THAT HIS
EXCRUCIATING SCHEDULE OF WORLD TRAVEL FORCES HIM TO BE
ABSENT AT QUITO. UNQUOTE

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3. CHICAGO TRIBUNE EDITORIAL PREDICTS U.S. MOVE TOWARD TIES WITH CUBA IF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS LIFTED AT QUITO. EDITORIAL THEN GOES ON TO DISCUSS PROS AND CONS OF U.S. RESUMPTION OF

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, CONCLUDING THAT "IT IS HARD TO FIND FAULT WITH THE CONCEPT OF DEALING WITH PREMIER CASTRO-- PROVIDING WE GUARD AGAINST ANYTHING THAT JEOPARDIZES OUR SECURITY AND THAT OF THE HEMISPHERE."

4. FRONT PAGE OF WALL ST. JOURNAL, IN WORLD-WIDE ROUND-UP SUMMARY SECTION, REFERS TO PURPOSE OF MEETING AND TO TWO BOMB EXPLOSIONS. DOUBLE BOMBING ALSO MADE INSIDE PAGES CHICAGO TRIBUNE, POST, NYTIMES AND SUN, AND RECEIVED PLAY IN TV AND RADIO NEWS CASTS NOVEMBER 7.

5. IN INSIDE PAGE, NYTIMES ARTICLE DATED NOVEMBER 7 FROM QUITO DISCUSSES POSSIBLE VOTING POSITIONS ASSERTING "THAT EVEN U.S. IS NOT CONSIDERED CERTAIN TO CAST A NEGATIVE VOTE." ON THE BASIS OF PREVIOUS U.S. STATEMENTS IN WASHINGTON, ARTICLE STATES THAT "SOME DELEGATES HERE ARE INTERPRETING THIS TO MEAN U.S. MIGHT ABSTAIN." ARTICLE STATES FURTHER THAT "ACCORDING TO LATIN AMERICAN DIPLOMATS HERE THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE U.S. IS PUTTING PRESSURE ON UNDECIDED NATIONS."

6. UPI ITEM APPEARING INSIDE PAGE CHICAGO TRIBUNE CITES DIPLOMATIC SOURCES AS "PREDICTING FINAL VOTE WILL BE CLOSE AND THAT U.S. UNLIKELY TO OBJECT TO RESTORING RELATIONS WITH CASTRO."

7. NOVEMBER 8 UPI ENGLISH TICKER FROM QUITO LEADS WITH PREDICTION BY "FOREIGN DIPLOMATS" THAT OAS WOULD VOTE TO END SANCTIONS AFTER TOUGH BARGAINING. ITEM ENDS UP ATTRIBUTING TO "AMERICAN OFFICIALS" STATEMENT THAT U.S. HAS DECIDED AGAINST SUPPORTING SANCTIONS BUT IS WAVERING BETWEEN ABSTAINING OR VOTING TO LIFT EMBARGO.

8. IN INSIDE PAGE OF BALTIMORE SUN, O'MARA BY-LINED ARTICLE OBSERVES THAT "LATIN AMERICA IS MUCH MORE DEEPLY SPLIT OVER CUBA TODAY THAN IT WAS TEN YEARS AGO AND UNCLASSIFIED

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POSSIBLY MORE DIVIDED THAN DURING THE SIXTEEN YEARS OF CASTRO." O'MARA REFERRED TO A ROGERS DESCRIPTION (ON ARRIVAL IN QUITO) OF THE U.S. POSITION AS POSITIVE, ADDING THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY WOULD NOT SAY HOW U.S. WOULD VOTE. O'MARA STATED THAT "MOST OBSERVERS EXPECT U.S. TO ABSTAIN OR GO WITH MAJORITY, WHICHEVER THAT PROVES TO BE."

9. IN CBS RADIO BROADCAST FROM QUITO THIS MORNING,

FRANK MANITZAS SAID: "NINE OF THE FOURTEEN NEEDED VOTES...
ARE LINED UP IN FAVOR OF CUBA; THERE ARE ANOTHER FOUR
PROBABLES; ONLY ONE VOTE SHORT. BUT NOTHING IS CERTAIN,
THE U.S. IS NOT SAYING HOW IT WILL VOTE, TRYING NOT TO
PLAY A KEY ROLE AS IT DID IN THROWING CUBA OUT."

10. FULL TEXT OF EDITORIALS REFERRED TO ABOVE CARRIED IN
WIRELESS FILE. MAW

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